

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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United States of America, )  
 ) File No. 19-CR-103  
 ) (MJD/ECW)  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. ) Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 ) September 24, 2019  
Relondo Devon Hall (2), ) 2:30 p.m.  
 )  
Defendant. )  
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BEFORE THE HONORABLE DAVID T. SCHULTZ  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
(DETENTION HEARING)

**APPEARANCES**

**For the Plaintiff:** **U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
**JUSTIN WESLEY, AUSA**  
300 S. 4th St., #600  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

**For the Defendant:** **HEGNA LAW OFFICE**  
**TERRY HEGNA, ESQ.**  
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Court Reporter: DEBRA K. BEAUVAIS, RPR-CRR  
300 S. 4th St., #1005  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography;  
transcript produced by computer.

**P R O C E E D I N G S**

**IN OPEN COURT**

THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise.

THE COURT: Go ahead and be seated.

All right. Good afternoon. We're on the record in the matter of the United States v. Relondo Devon Hall, Criminal No. 19-103.

Mr. Wesley, would you note your appearance for the record, please.

MR. WESLEY: Justin Wesley for the United States government.

THE COURT: Ms. Hegna.

MS. HEGNA: Your Honor, my name is Terry Hegna, and I'm here this afternoon with Mr. Hall, who is seated to my left.

THE COURT: Good afternoon, Ms. Hegna and Mr. Hall.

According to what I have in front of me, we are here for a detention hearing. But also, Ms. Hegna, would you like to have your client arraigned today as long as you're available?

MS. HEGNA: I would, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Why don't we do the arraignment first, then. Come on up.

All right. Mr. Hall, would you state your full

1 name for the record, please.

2 THE DEFENDANT: Relondo Devon Hall.

3 THE COURT: And spell your last name, please.

4 THE DEFENDANT: H-A-L-L.

5 THE COURT: All right. Your date of birth, sir,  
6 is what?

7 THE DEFENDANT: 3-22 of '82.

8 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Hall, a superseding  
9 indictment dated August 13 of 2019 has been filed against  
10 you charging you with conspiracy to distribute controlled  
11 substances, possession with intent to distribute controlled  
12 substances, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

13 Have you had a chance to see a copy of the  
14 indictment?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: Ms. Hegna, do you wish to waive  
17 reading of the indictment?

18 MS. HEGNA: Yes, Your Honor, we would waive the  
19 reading and ask that the Court enter not guilty pleas on all  
20 counts.

21 THE COURT: All right. Very well.

22 Mr. Hall, the Court will enter a plea of not  
23 guilty to all six charges -- or seven charges of the  
24 superseding indictment. Okay?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

1 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead and be seated. I  
2 have some dates for you all to write down.

3 Government disclosures due date is October 1. The  
4 defendant's disclosures then are October 8th. Motion filing  
5 date is October 15. And the motion response date is October  
6 29. Notice of intent to call witnesses, November 1. And  
7 the responsive notice deadline is November 4. Motions will  
8 be heard on November 5 at 9:30 in the morning before  
9 Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Cowan Wright. She is in  
10 courtroom 3C in St. Paul. Voir dire and jury instructions  
11 will be due November 18th. And trial is set for December  
12 2nd at 9:00 a.m. before District Judge Michael J. Davis, and  
13 he is in Courtroom 13E above us in this courthouse.

14 Okay? Any questions about those dates or anything  
15 relating to the arraignment?

16 MR. WESLEY: No, Your Honor.

17 MS. HEGNA: No, Your Honor, except that I would  
18 note that Mr. Hall is only charged in three counts of the  
19 indictment, not all of the counts.

20 THE COURT: Very well. Thank you. So noted. A  
21 not guilty plea will be entered on your behalf to all the  
22 counts in the indictment that relate to you. Okay?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

24 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Wesley, how do you  
25 intend to proceed with respect to detention?

1 MR. WESLEY: A brief proffer of information, along  
2 with the information that's contained in the Pretrial  
3 Services report.

4 THE COURT: Very well. Why don't you go ahead,  
5 Mr. Wesley.

6 MR. WESLEY: Your Honor, the first thing that I  
7 wanted to clarify was from the initial appearance where  
8 Ms. Atwal, who was representing the defendant at that period  
9 of time, indicated that Mr. Hall was claiming he had turned  
10 himself in. I didn't mention anything at that time because  
11 I thought the detention hearing would be more appropriate.

12 I informed Ms. Atwal immediately after the hearing  
13 that Mr. Hall was in fact arrested after a controlled buy.  
14 He did not turn himself in. I informed Ms. Hegna of that  
15 when I learned she was appointed. I provided her with the  
16 underlying police reports indicating that was how he was  
17 apprehended. So I did want the Court to know he did not  
18 turn himself in. He was arrested on probable cause for a  
19 new offense and then held on a misdemeanor warrant before he  
20 appeared here.

21 Your Honor, we are seeking detention. I believe  
22 that the Pretrial Services report does lay out the reasons  
23 why that would be appropriate in this case; that no  
24 condition or conditions would be sufficient to ensure his  
25 appearance or public safety. And the only other things I

1 would like to note for the Court are that the indictment  
2 does allege serious allegations with significant time.

3 This investigation was initiated based on Mr. Hall  
4 being the target. It was an overdose death on December 22nd  
5 of 2018 where Mr. Hall is alleged to have been the person  
6 who provided the Fentanyl that resulted in the death of an  
7 individual.

8 Mr. Hall was at an Airbnb, which is the result of  
9 the January 24th, 2019 charges -- that's a short term but  
10 extended stay-type situation -- where it's alleged that he  
11 was dealing Fentanyl and heroin out of that, along with his  
12 co-defendant, Mr. Abari.

13 He was later found in another residence with a  
14 bunch of other Fentanyl and heroin users. And during the  
15 investigation we know that he's been in Las Vegas and  
16 Florida, so we don't believe that he's ever had a permanent  
17 residence during the time of this conspiracy.

18 So given the charges, given the Pretrial Services  
19 report, Your Honor, the government does not believe that  
20 there is any condition or conditions that would ensure his  
21 appearance or public safety, specifically given the  
22 Fentanyl, the overdose death in this case, and just the  
23 sheer volume.

24 We tracked down their supplier who's indicted,  
25 Kevin Green. He alone had \$200,000 in cash almost -- I

1 believe it was around 193,000 -- and 300 grams of a mixture  
2 of Fentanyl and heroin. Those numbers go up somewhat with  
3 actual amounts for the grams that we obtained from Mr. Hall  
4 and Mr. Abari and the cash that was seized from them as  
5 well. And then, of course, there's the firearms. So that's  
6 our basis for detention, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Wesley.

8 Ms. Hegna.

9 MS. HEGNA: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 What you've just heard is the government's proffer  
11 as to what they may be able to show during the course of  
12 this matter. At this point, that information has not been  
13 available; although, Mr. Wesley has certainly provided me  
14 bits and pieces.

15 I would note since Mr. Wesley indicated that  
16 Mr. Hall was at the Airbnb when that search was done, it's  
17 my understanding through a conversation with Mr. Wesley that  
18 he was actually not present when that was done.

19 Having said that, Your Honor, it's our position  
20 today that there are conditions that will assure Mr. Hall's  
21 appearance and the safety of community. The comments  
22 regarding voluntary surrender -- I wasn't here, obviously,  
23 on Friday, but I think in talking to Mr. Hall that's a  
24 misunderstanding. He knew he was arrested. He was going to  
25 pay the \$78 warrant, and he tells me when he got to the

1 jail, he found out there was the federal warrant. I said,  
2 Well, you couldn't have left, could you? And he said, No.  
3 Well, I turned myself in. Well, he was there already. I  
4 mean, he's not disputing those circumstances.

5 Your Honor, I would make a further offer of proof.  
6 As you can see in the back of the courtroom, Mr. Hall's  
7 family is here today: his mother, Deletta Hall; his three  
8 children; a cousin; and a girlfriend; and there's some other  
9 family members that were not identified to me before I came  
10 in here. He does have the support of his family, and I  
11 think it's important that the Court consider that as it's  
12 looking at all the other information.

13 Mr. Wesley and I have discussed that we would  
14 offer a proffer of what Deletta Hall is willing to testify  
15 to today without her taking the stand. Basically, she could  
16 confirm the information in the bond report in terms of  
17 Mr. Hall being her son. He was born in Illinois, has been  
18 in Minnesota for 25 years, very connected with his family.

19 His mom lives at a residence on Central Avenue in  
20 Minneapolis. And she has indicated to me that although  
21 that's a public housing residence and he can't live exactly  
22 with her, that her hope would be that they would set up an  
23 apartment in the basement with the consent of the landlord.

24 Ms. Hall has -- her husband is in a nursing home.  
25 The bond report says that he has died. I guess that's



1       inaccurate. Her other son has deceased. She has no other  
2       children, besides Mr. Hall. She suffers from diabetes, as  
3       well as some mental-health issues, and indicates that  
4       Mr. Hall is her lifeline basically. He helps her with  
5       laundry, helps cook her food, helps put her medication in  
6       pill boxes, takes care of her bills. And she indicates that  
7       he's never given her any trouble and also indicates that he  
8       is a good father to his children. She indicates that  
9       without his help it's going to be a struggle for her, and  
10      Mr. Hall wants to continue to provide that support.

11               She personally has never seen him with narcotics  
12      or a gun. And she believes that although he had some issues  
13      early on in his life, that since he started working about  
14      five years ago that he has done fairly well. She can  
15      indicate to the Court that the job he had at Tim Horton's  
16      that the bond report says that he was laid off from in March  
17      of '20 [sic], he worked for about three years. He was a  
18      baker at that business. He also worked at SuperValu  
19      warehouse for about a year and a half and worked at Marsden  
20      cleaning.

21               I think all of that, Your Honor, kind of leads  
22      into the Court considering and looking at the criminal  
23      history that has been put forth. If the Court looks at that  
24      carefully, the last conviction that shows up, apart from the  
25      February 28, 2019 arrest in Las Vegas, which was the

1 misdemeanor, but aside from that, there haven't been any  
2 convictions, at least that I'm aware of, since 2010.

3 Mr. Hall indicates there was a period of time  
4 where he did turn his life around and he was working hard  
5 and taking care of his family, and that's what he wants to  
6 do again.

7 When we look at the three factors that support a  
8 finding that there are conditions -- I mean, we have to look  
9 at the context of the bond report. Just because somebody  
10 has repeated contact with law enforcement doesn't  
11 necessarily mean anything. We don't know why Mr. Hall is  
12 stopped repeatedly for his driving and traffic offenses, but  
13 apparently that's one of the weaknesses that he has. As I  
14 look at the bond report, if my math is correct, there's 16  
15 entries where he was arrested, but there were no charges or  
16 disposition that resulted from those.

17 It also looks like many of the stops, as I  
18 indicated, were traffic related: driving after suspension,  
19 false information to the police. And, again, we don't  
20 exactly know what the circumstances of those cases are.

21 Granted there are six active cases, but those are  
22 all misdemeanors as I can tell from looking at -- again, at  
23 the bond report. Although there's two traffic matters that  
24 have active warrants in Vegas, you know, it's my  
25 understanding that they don't intend to extradite outside of

1 this jurisdiction. So our hope would be that he could move  
2 forward and try to get the pieces of his life back together.

3 The other thing that I think the Court has to give  
4 serious consideration to is in the bond report one of the  
5 factors was that he's been homeless for two years. He may  
6 or may not -- or no permanent address, excuse me; "homeless"  
7 is my word. The fact that he doesn't have a permanent  
8 address in and of itself with all the family support he has,  
9 the fact that he's been well connected with our community  
10 for 25 years and wants to stay here, I think the fact that  
11 he doesn't have his own address at this point shouldn't be  
12 the factor. As I indicated, his mom would testify that she  
13 is working to provide him with a place to live.

14 Your Honor, it's our position that there are  
15 conditions. As the Court can see, Mr. Hall has had issues  
16 with substance abuse over the course of his life. I know he  
17 told the worker in the bond report that he didn't think he  
18 had a problem, but the Court can look at that, look at the  
19 UA that was done at the time of his arrest, and he obviously  
20 has some problems.

21 It would be our suggestion, Your Honor, that the  
22 conditions that would assure his presence and would assure  
23 the safety of the community would include releasing him on  
24 some sort of home monitoring, having him do a Rule 25  
25 assessment and following the recommendations of that,

1 finding employment, having no contact with the folks that  
2 the government is concerned about, and allowing him to be a  
3 productive member of society while this case is pending.

4 As I said, with the discovery not due for a week,  
5 it's hard to decide how this case is going to be handled.  
6 Just because we hear this is a drug offense and we hear  
7 guns, we still have to evaluate the circumstances of what we  
8 know at this point. And, as I said, apart from a  
9 misdemeanor controlled substance, there haven't been any  
10 convictions that I'm aware of since 2012.

11 If the Court is disinclined to allow him to simply  
12 go to his mom's house or somewhere, we would ask that he be  
13 allowed to reside in a halfway house while this is pending  
14 with the electronic monitoring. That would provide an extra  
15 level of comfort for the Court and the government, and he  
16 can still participate in treatment and whatever was  
17 determined to be appropriate for him. He'd be accountable  
18 to the rules of the halfway house, and he indicates that he  
19 is willing to do that if the Court wants that extra level of  
20 supervision.

21 The last comment I would have, Your Honor, is on  
22 the risk assessment that comes in the bond reports as of  
23 late, it's an assessment. It doesn't tell us what the risk  
24 for any of the behaviors it looks at are going to relate to  
25 this particular defendant. Rather than looking at 35

1 percent in a category V are going to fail to appear, have  
2 new criminal cases or technical violations, we can also look  
3 at it as 65 percent of folks are not going to be in that  
4 category. And, in any event, it doesn't predict the risk  
5 for this particular defendant, which I think the Court has  
6 to do when it's taking a look at whether there are  
7 conditions that exist.

8 So with that, Your Honor, we would strongly urge  
9 the Court to find that there are conditions, and that  
10 Mr. Hall is willing to follow them. And any concerns that  
11 might've been expressed on Friday, part of that had to do  
12 simply with the process moving so quickly and not having the  
13 time to talk in detail with an attorney.

14 I'm comfortable, Your Honor, if the Court were to  
15 fashion an order, that there are conditions that would  
16 assure the safety of the community and Mr. Hall's appearance  
17 before this Court.

18 Thank you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Hegna.

20 Mr. Wesley, I'll give you the final word.

21 MR. WESLEY: Just a clarification if I did  
22 misspeak. Mr. Hall was not present at the January 24th  
23 search warrant, but he is the one that had secured the  
24 Airbnb. And the government has information that both  
25 Mr. Hall and Mr. Abari had been selling large amounts of

1 Fentanyl out of that apartment building.

2 At the time of the execution, Mr. Abari was  
3 present; Mr. Hall's daughter, Desiree Hall, was present, who  
4 I believe is in the courtroom here today, if I recognize her  
5 properly from photos I've seen; and then her boyfriend was  
6 also present with 100 grams, approximately, of heroin out  
7 being packaged on the kitchen table.

8 While I'm not a fan of calling witnesses at these  
9 types of hearings, Your Honor, based on discovery not being  
10 provided, I did speak with Ms. Hegna yesterday and previewed  
11 her, basically, the timeline of the case that we do have.  
12 And I do have one of the case agents present here, and I can  
13 proffer to the Court that we do have a very strong case.

14 The evidence is that Mr. Abari and Mr. Hall were  
15 equally dealing large amounts of Fentanyl and heroin  
16 unbeknownst to their users that Fentanyl was contained in  
17 the heroin. They were selling it as only heroin.

18 There is one death involved. There are shootings  
19 involved in this case where Mr. Hall and Mr. Abari are  
20 implicated where persons were actually shot. Threats were  
21 made not by Mr. Hall, but by Mr. Abari. And there's lots of  
22 other things going on with this case. But the government  
23 does believe that the bond report itself, the severity of  
24 these charges, the weights, the money that's involved, and  
25 the fact that even after Mr. Abari and Mr. Green were picked

1 up, Mr. Hall is out there conducting controlled buys. It's  
2 not just the last one that he was picked up on, but he was  
3 selling methamphetamine. We have a phone of his where he  
4 was Googling "how do I get Fentanyl" because his source was  
5 cut off.

6 So the government does not believe that there are  
7 any conditions, such as a halfway house, where Mr. Hall  
8 would discontinue the behavior that he is engaged in that  
9 does endanger the public safety or assure his appearance in  
10 court.

11 Thank you.

12 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Wesley.

13 This is a rebuttable presumption case, correct,  
14 Mr. Wesley?

15 MR. WESLEY: I believe so, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Okay. All right. I have considered  
17 everything in the Pretrial Services report and the proffer  
18 of both the government and the defense in this case, and I'm  
19 going to find that the defendant has not rebutted the  
20 presumption in this case for all the reasons that are cited  
21 in the Pretrial Services report.

22 I cannot find that there's any set of conditions  
23 that I can impose that will reasonably assure Mr. Hall's  
24 appearance at further court proceedings or reasonably assure  
25 the safety of the community. So my order is that pending

1 trial in this matter Mr. Hall will be detained.

2 Anything further for the government, Mr. Wesley?

3 MR. WESLEY: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Anything further for the defendant,  
5 Ms. Hegna?

6 (A brief discussion was held off the record.)

7 MS. HEGNA: No, Your Honor, not today.

8 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Court is in  
9 recess.

10 Good luck to you, Mr. Hall.

11 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise.

12 (Court adjourned at 3:00 p.m.)

13 \* \* \*

14 I, Debra Beauvais, certify that the foregoing is a  
15 correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the  
16 above-entitled matter.

17 Certified by: s/Debra Beauvais  
18 Debra Beauvais, RPR-CRR